

Milwaukee Military Memorials: Inventory Sheet

Summer 2014



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City of Milwaukee
 City Clerk's Office
 Historic Preservation Office

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General Information									
Title(s)	World War I Memorial Flagpole						Property No.	Ald.04 - 07	
Subject Matter(s)	Flagpole								
Current Location	Ald. District	4th							
	Street Address	Juneau Park East Mason Street and North Prospect Avenue							
	Geographical Coordination	Latitude	43° 2'26.48"N		Longitude	87°53'56.43"W			
Previous Location(s) (if applicable)	Street Address	The triangle at North Second Street, North Plankinton Avenue and West Wells Street							
	Geographical Coordination	Latitude	43° 2'25.28"N		Longitude	87°54'45.97"W			
Dedicated to soldiers of	Revolutionary War <input type="checkbox"/>	Civil War <input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish-American War <input type="checkbox"/>	WWI <input type="checkbox"/>	WWII <input type="checkbox"/>	Vietnam War <input type="checkbox"/>	All wars <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Description								
Patron(s) or Sponsor(s)	Service Star Legion, Milwaukee Branch								
Designer(s)	Benjamin Hawkins (b. 1896): "Artist Benjamin Hawkins received his training from several modern masters of sculptural form-Victor Holm, Leo Lentelli, and Lee Lawrie. Educational experiences at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, Washington University, the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design, and the Art Students league prepared the artist for a long career. Hawkins moved to New York City as a young man and in 1933 received the Avery Prize from the Architectural league of New York for <i>Boy Riding on a Dolphin</i> . A member of the National Sculpture Society, he chose architectural sculpture as his special field. Hawkins participated in the WPA federal program to decorate post offices during the Great Depression." (Buck and Palmer, Outdoor Sculpture in Milwaukee, 19-20)								
Manufacturer(s)	N/A								
Costs	\$5,000								
	National <input type="checkbox"/>	State <input type="checkbox"/>	County <input type="checkbox"/>	City <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>				

Current Owner(s)	Description	
Dedication Date	November 11, 1934	
Other Dates		
Descriptive Physical Condition		
Description of the place (location)	The flagpole is located at the southern end of Juneau Park, at N. Prospect avenue and E. Mason avenue, right at the western end of the Lincoln Memorial bridge. Trees surround the flagpole on south and west. The eagle at the top of the flagpole is headed toward West, but its head is turned left looking south.	
Features and materials	Flagstaff: <ul style="list-style-type: none">α Flagstaff: Metal pipe-shaped shaft, in two pieces.α Top: Bronze eagle. Base: <ul style="list-style-type: none">α Footing, bronze relief, Octagonal, 6' 8" high X 3' 8" wide x 3' 8" deep. (Buck and Palmer, Outdoor Sculpture in Milwaukee, 19)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “The two figures which alternate at the four corners of the base in the design selected are, according to Hawkin's explanation, St. George and the Dragon, and Victory. “The first symbolizes the conquest of evil by righteousness, the second figure, Victory, symbolizes not merely victory in battle, but the high spiritual victory which a man achieves in laying down his life for a patriotic love of country.”” (Milwaukee Journal, September 20, 1933)α A stone base course, under the bronze footing, made of a single piece of unpolished Waupaoa granite. (Norman N. Gill, letter to Don Myers, August 9, 1944)	
Inscription(s) (if applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">α Around bottom band of the bronze base: “TO.THE.MEMORY.OF.THOSE.WHO.SERVED.1917.1918.”α On front, west side of the granite base: “ERECTED BY SERVICE STAR LEGION “INCORPORATED MILWAUKEE CHAPTER 1934”α North side of the bronze base (very small font): “BENJAMIN HAWKINS SCULPTOR”α South side of the bronze base (very small font): “A.KUNST.ART.F.D.Y.N.Y.C.”	
Architectural Pathology	Element	Deterioration
	Bronze eagle	The bronze base is in a stable physical condition. For more information, further close examination might be needed.
	Flagstaff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">α The flagstaff is not exactly installed on the center of the base. It is slightly shifted toward west; however it looks completely vertical. Further examination might be needed.α It is made of metal today but it has been mentioned once that it has been made of “western airplane wood” (Norman N. Gill, letter to Don Myers, August 9, 1944).α It is in a good physical condition.
	Bronze base	The bronze base is in a stable physical condition. The surface is covered by sulphide because of corrosion. This has happened differently in various parts. Some minor contamination, and scratches can be seen on the bronze surfaces.

	Granite	Some minor contamination and scratches can be seen on the granite. This has happened mostly at the bottom part where the base sits on the exposed concrete foundation.
History		
Date	Events	
June 02, 1927	<p>Looking for a location for the Memorial:</p> <p>“The plot in front of the proposed new courthouse (901 N 9th St.) is a much better site for the proposed soldiers' and sailors' memorial monument than the triangle at Wells and West Water streets., in the opinion of Architect A C. Clas, of Clas Shepherd & Clas. The memorial is to be erected by the Service Star legion. “the triangle at West Water and Wells streets. Is not the proper place for a memorial monument.” said Mr. Clas. “A much better place could be found in front of the new courthouse. When Cedar st. is widened and the roadway carried around the courthouse there will be a splendid site for a memorial monument in front of the entrance to the building at the est. It should be designed to harmonize with the building, which will give it a proper setting. “Placed on the triangle the monument will be dwarfed and its appearance ruined by the business buildings which will be erected around the triangle. The use for which this triangle is best suited is for a comfort station.”” (Milwaukee Sentinel, June 02, 1927)</p>	
November 12, 1929	<p>Planning for obtaining the memorial:</p> <p>“Decision to erect a monument to the American soldiers who gave their lives during the [first] World war was made by the Service Star Legion, an organization of war mothers, during an Armistice day meeting at the Elks club yesterday. The organization has a fund of \$5,000 which will be used for that purpose. It is planned to raise an additional sum. “Milwaukee is unique in being one of the few cities without a real civic memorial.” Mrs. James F. Troitmann, honorary president, declared. “By means of benefits and without solicitation, the Service Star legion obtained \$5,000. This sum was to be the incentive for a larger fund which the legion asked other organizations and the city to raise for a memorial.” It is the plan of the Service Star legion to select a simple memorial during the winter and prepare for its erection in the spring, according to Mrs. Mark Helfaer, recoding secretary. The place where the memorial is to be stand has not been selected. Officers of the Service Star legion, formerly called War Mother of America, are: Mrs. Charles Juneau, president; Mrs. Fred G. Suits, first vice president; Mrs. John C. Schafere, second vice president; Mrs. Helfaer, secretary; Mrs. William C. Creening, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ernst Labeek, treasurer.” (Wisconsin News, November 12, 1929)</p>	
July 11, 1930	<p>Reject design for the memorial:</p> <p>α “The Milwaukee art commission has rejected a design for a war memorial in the Wells, Second and W. Water st. triangle, according to a report field Friday by the commission to be presented to the common council. The memorial would have shown a doughboy with a rifle strapped to his back, shirt open at the throat, arms outstretched, face to the sky. The commission rejected the design on artistic grounds, declaring that it was “unsuited for the proposed location, considering the scale of architecture of its surroundings. It is too realistic to express the desired power and dignity, and the design in our opinion lacks the spirit which we feel a memorial of this kind should possess. Reports that the commission had considered the design too militaristic in spirit were denied by Alexander C. Eschweiler, Sr., chairman, and Walter W. Judell, a member of the commission. “There was no discussion at the meetings that the design was too militaristic,” Mr. Eschweiler said.” “ The city owns the plot of land, which was purchased for memorial purposes. The art commission ended its communication with</p>	

	<p>an offer to help the memorial committee to obtain a design to meet with its ideas of “power and dignity” and less “realistic.” “I regret the action of the Milwaukee commission, more so because the design had been passed by the New York art commission,” Mrs. J. F. Trottman, 508 Lafayette place, another member of the memorial committee, said.” (Milwaukee Journal, July 11, 1930)</p> <p>About the rejected proposal:</p> <p>α “The artist who designed the [rejected] memorial is Augustus Lukeman, who, according to Mrs. Trottman, is now working on a war memorial at Atlanta, Ga. The proposed memorial would have been a replica of one designed and erected in Brooklyn, N. Y., by Mr. Lukeman. It would have been 18 feet high, including the pedestal.” (Milwaukee Journal, July 11, 1930) “Three Easter cities have similar memorials, including Brooklyn, N. Y.” (Milwaukee Journal, July 24, 1930)</p> <p>α The mentioned memorial in Brooklyn, NY, is known as Red Hook doughboy, at Red Hook neighborhood.</p>
July 13, 1930	<p>Planning for a war memorial on lake front in parallel to SSL (Service Star Legion) efforts:</p> <p>“In addition to the endeavors of the Service Star legion a representative committee of Milwaukeeans, formed two years ago at the suggestion of Miss Elizabeth Black and under the chairmanship of J. H. Puelicher, is continuing its efforts to erect a much more costly memorial, probably on the lake front. The executive committee, formed from a meeting of scores of prominent Milwaukeeans, consists of Miss Black, honorary chairman, Mr. Puelicher, chairman; Mrs. George Lines, secretary; H.D. Greisen, representing the American Legion; Cornelius Corcoran, president of the common council; former Gov. F. E. McGovern, Mrs. James T. Trottman of the D. A. R. and Mrs. Thomas Spence of the American War Mothers. The committee has sent letters to various sculptors of the country requesting rough drafts of a memorial and is awaiting these plans. Members of the committee Saturday called the triangle in the heart of the city an unsuitable place for a real memorial. They also expressed the opinion that the \$5,000 which the Service Star legion expects to spend is far too little for an appropriate memorial. One member pointed out that Racine, for instance, spent \$50,000 for its memorial. Miss Black suggested that a drinking fountain or some such thing, rather than a statue, might be erected on the small plot of ground.” (Milwaukee Journal, July 13, 1930)</p>
July 24, 1930	<p>SSL takes the rejection issue to the common council:</p> <p>“Dissatisfied with the action of the city art commission which disapproved its design of a memorial to Milwaukee's veterans in the [First] World War, the Service Star Legion moved Wednesday to have the monument approved by the common council. If the aldermen approve the [doughboy] memorial, it will be erected in the triangular tract at Second, Wells and W. Water streets, in time for dedication Armistice day, Nov 11. Ald. John Koerner introduced a resolution at the special council meeting Wednesday asking that the design be approved. He showed a letter from Mrs. Fred G. Suits, 951 Newhall st., president of the organization, petitioning the council to override the art commission's decision.” (Milwaukee Journal, July 24, 1930)</p>
July 29, 1930	<p>Aldermen approve the rejected memorial:</p> <p>“With no discussion the common council Monday passed a resolution authorizing the Service Star Legion Inc., to erect the statue Work is to be completed before Armistice day.” (Milwaukee Journal, July 29, 1930)</p>
August 01, 1930	City council verses art commission:

	<p>“A fight between the common council and the Milwaukee art commission loomed Thursday as A. C. Hansen, secretary of the commission served notice that that body would not be overridden in its stand against the design of” the doughboy memorial. “Ald. Cornelius Corcoran, president of the council and acting mayor said he would sign a resolution authorizing erection of the monument. A state law providing that Milwaukee can erect no work of art nor accept any work of art without the commission's approval would make the council action void, Hansen contends.” (Milwaukee Journal, August 01, 1930)</p>
September 12, 1930	<p>SSL cannot put up the doughboy statue:</p> <p>“Although the common council overruled the municipal art commission by approving [the doughboy memorial], the Service Star Legion will make no effort to erect the statue.” “A. C. Eschweiler, jr., the president of the art commission, said that members had not changed their opinion that the [doughboy] statue is “too realistic” and does not harmonize with the architecture of the neighborhood.” “The legion will hold a meeting next month at which action may be taken on plans for giving the city a memorial.” (Milwaukee Journal, September 12, 1930)</p>
September 18, 1933	<p>Planning for the competition for the memorial:</p> <p>α “Members of the Service Star legion will meet Tuesday afternoon at the Art institution to view some 17 models submitted by artists from various parts of the country in competition. Each of the 60 members of the legion will cast her vote for one model.” “[Then] The municipal art commission will meet, probably Wednesday, to pass upon the choice of the legion.” (Milwaukee Journal, September 18, 1933)</p> <p>Disagreement of the art commission with triangle:</p> <p>α “The commission did not agree with the legion that the triangle was a suitable place for the memorial six years ago [1927], but was overruled by the common council, which set aside the plot.” (Milwaukee Journal, September 18, 1933)</p> <p>Disagreement of the art commission with the proposed statue by the legion:</p> <p>α “The legion chose “The Returning Doughboy” a statue by August Lukeman, noted New York artist. The commission ruled against the doughboy's expression of joy over the ending of the war as hardly in keeping with the dignity of a war memorial.” (Milwaukee Journal, September 18, 1933)</p> <p>α “The commission also held that the legion should have held a contest to pick an artist. The legion protested but accepted the ultimatum when it was held that the common council had no power to overrule the commission. “The Returning Doughboy” will be displayed and may even win a majority vote of the legion. “We are just helping to arrange the exhibition,” said Alfred G. Pelikan, director of the Art institution. “I was asked to help judge the memorial contest, but I said 'nosiree.' I've got enough trouble of my own.” The Exhibition will open to the public Wednesday afternoon [September 20].” (Milwaukee Journal, September 18, 1933)</p>
September 19, 1933	<p>Aldermen asked to view the models for the proposed memorial:</p> <p>“After a two year armistice, the conflict over a war memorial for the triangle at N. Second street, N. Plankinton avenue and W. Wells street faced a revival yesterday as the Service Star Legion arranged a “gallery tour” of 17 models for the memorial on display at the Art Institution.</p>

	Braving a new controversy, the Legion invited all city aldermen, members of the art commission and other public officials to view the exhibit Wednesday. The commission has the power to pass upon whatever choice the Legion may make among the models, but aldermen indicated yesterday they'd like to have their artistic idea upon the subject considered, too. The 60 members of the Legion are to do their viewing privately in advance this afternoon and cast their votes for the best among the 17 models." (Milwaukee Sentinel, September 19, 1933)
September 20, 1933	<p>Competition day, Hawkins flagpole was picked for the memorial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> α "Wednesday [September 20] members of the Service Star Legion awaited the art commission's verdict on their choice, the design of the Benjamin Franklin Hawkins, New York city, which represents a flagpole topped with a bronze tip and eagle, but there was little indication as to whom the decision would be forthcoming." "R. Pelikan Wednesday commended the choice of the Hawkins design. "It was the one outstanding thing in the competition," he said. "The women in my opinion made a very good choice. The designer has studied the location, kept within the cost and done a dignified, appropriate and lovely thing. I see no reason why this choice should be rejected.'" (Milwaukee Journal, September 20, 1933) α Members of the Service Star Legion in this decision-making were "twenty mothers of soldiers wounded or killed under fire." (Milwaukee Sentinel, September 20, 1933) α "Sixteen other artists sent models into competition – two of them Milwaukeean. One, a trapezoidal monument by Royal A. Scheibe, was termed even more artistic than Hawkins, shaft by one member. The other, by Frank Pescosta, showed a soldier, holding his gun at shoulder arms. Leslie Thomas Posey of Merrill also submitted a doughboy holding a gun, while most of the other competing models were from New York. " (Milwaukee Sentinel, September 20, 1933) <p>But still SSL members prefer the rejected doughboy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> α The members of the legion, when they voted Tuesday, surveyed the designs submitted with little eagerness. The "doughboy" design, eliminated two years ago by the art commission's decision that among other things it was "too realistic," was gone but not forgotten. Mrs. Louis Manegold, chairman of the memorial design committee, had photographs of it in her purse and the women looked at them wistfully from time to time. After the votes were counted, Mrs Manegold expressed the general attitude. "We picked this as the best of the designs submitted, but there was not one in the competition that appealed to us as much as the doughboy. He seemed typical of the feeling of the boys when we saw them come home in 1919. This is graceful and impressive, but it doesn't express a thing." "Well, we are mothers, not art critics, but we are mothers who want to see something done to honor our sons. We are growing older, and we should like to see a memorial set up before we die. This doesn't suit us well as the other did, but perhaps it will suit the art commission." Criticisms of the "Doughboy," including the characterization "too militaristic," apparently still rankled. Mrs. Kroening said, "We couldn't see anything militaristic about it." (Milwaukee Journal, September 20, 1933) α "The [art] commission is to meet at the Art institute this morning and go over the statues. "I do hope they won't be too dictatorial about all this," said Mrs. W. C. Kroening, secretary of the memorial committee, anxiously. "They were so harsh when they rejected our memorial the last time. It wasn't militaristic in the least." Mrs. Kroening and Mrs. Louis Manegold voiced another hope, too, that Mr. Hawkins ("his name is so American,") ,ay have a family tree dating way back to colonial days."

	<p>(Milwaukee Sentinel, September 20, 1933)</p> <p>α “Mrs. W. C. Kroening, secretary, had sent special delivery letters to all members of the commission, inviting them to appear. Only Myron Nutting, art teacher, arrived and then left soon thereafter when other commissioners failed to show up. Whereupon [T. L. Rose, president of the commission] explained the need for a formal application to pass upon artistic qualities of public monuments. And furthermore, he added, the commissioners were “very busy men” and couldn't all be brought together in short order. Though the commission expressed no opinion on the favored war memorial.” (Milwaukee Sentinel, September 21, 1933)</p>
-	<p>Fund-raising:</p> <p>“The \$5,000 it will cost has been gathering interest in the bank since 1929. The Service legionnaires raised the money through benefits parties.” (Milwaukee Journal, October 02, 1934)</p>
August 01, 1934	<p>Ground was broken for the flagpole memorial:</p> <p>“In a world given over to “complacency and satisfaction,” and now to “problems of industrial strife,” members of the Milwaukee chapter of the Service Star legion, are “here to testify that we do not forget,” Mrs. Louis Manegold, memorial chairman of the organization, said Wednesday morning. The occasion was the breaking of ground for the memorial flagpole to be erected in the triangle bounded by N. Second st., W. Wells st. and N. Plankinton ave. The first spadeful of soil was removed by Mrs. E. T. Lubeck, president of the legion, in the presence of Sherman Brown, assistant secretary of the park board, and representatives of veterans' organizations, including Col. Charles Pearsall, governor of the soldiers' home; H. E. Ihlenfeld, president of the reserve Officers' association, and Gil Stordock, state adjutant of the American Legion. The Rev. Gustave Stearns, chaplain at the soldiers' home, gave the invocation and closing prayer.” (Milwaukee Journal, August 01, 1934)</p>
November 11, 1934	<p>Dedication day for the flagpole World War I memorial:</p> <p>“Sixteen years of post-war peace were celebrated yesterday [November 11] by Milwaukee at Armistice day ceremonies dedicated to the 750 Milwaukeeans who lost their lives in the World War.” “A highlight of the local observance was the dedication by the Milwaukee chapter of Service Star Mothers of its new memorial flagstaff in the triangle at N Plankinton avenue and W. Wells street. The American Legion band and the Veterans of Foreign Wars participated. Mmes. Carl Walber and Bernard Germershausen unveiled the \$5,000 memorial, which was presented by Mrs. E. T. Lubeck, president of the chapter and accepted by Mayor Hoan for the city. Patriotic songs were sung by Anthony Olinger.” “The dedication address was given by Charles B. Perry attorney who lauded the Service Star Mothers for their gift to the city and pointed out the advantageous central location of the site. ” (Milwaukee Sentinel, November 12, 1933)</p>
September 24, 1968	<p>“The flag pole became a rallying point for Vietnam War protester, who burned papers from the Selective Service Office located across the street.” (Buck and Palmer, Outdoor Sculpture in Milwaukee, 19-20)</p>
June 14, 1979	<p>Memorial's relocation to the lake front (current location) and re-dedication:</p> <p>α As a part of MacArthur Memorial week, June 07-14, The flagpole was removed to its new place close to the Memorial Center. (the statue of General MacArthur was also erected in this memorial week. See General MacArthur article) (Milwaukee Journal, February 27, 1979)</p> <p>α Originally the memorial stood on two octagonal stone base courses, each made of a</p>

	single piece of unpolished Waupaoa granite (Norman N. Gill, letter to Don Myers, August 9, 1944). Today just one base exists. Based on the historic photographs of the first dedication day, the memorial base was higher.
1989	<p>Another memorial at the former Location:</p> <p>In 1989, a memorial named “Letter Carrier's monument” was located at the former place of the World War I flagpole, the triangle of North 2nd Street, West Wells Street, and North Plankinton Avenue. The new memorial was dedicated in the memory of Civil War veterans who became letter carriers after the war. (Buck and Palmer, Outdoor Sculpture in Milwaukee, 42-3)</p>
Notes	
α	

Illustrations:

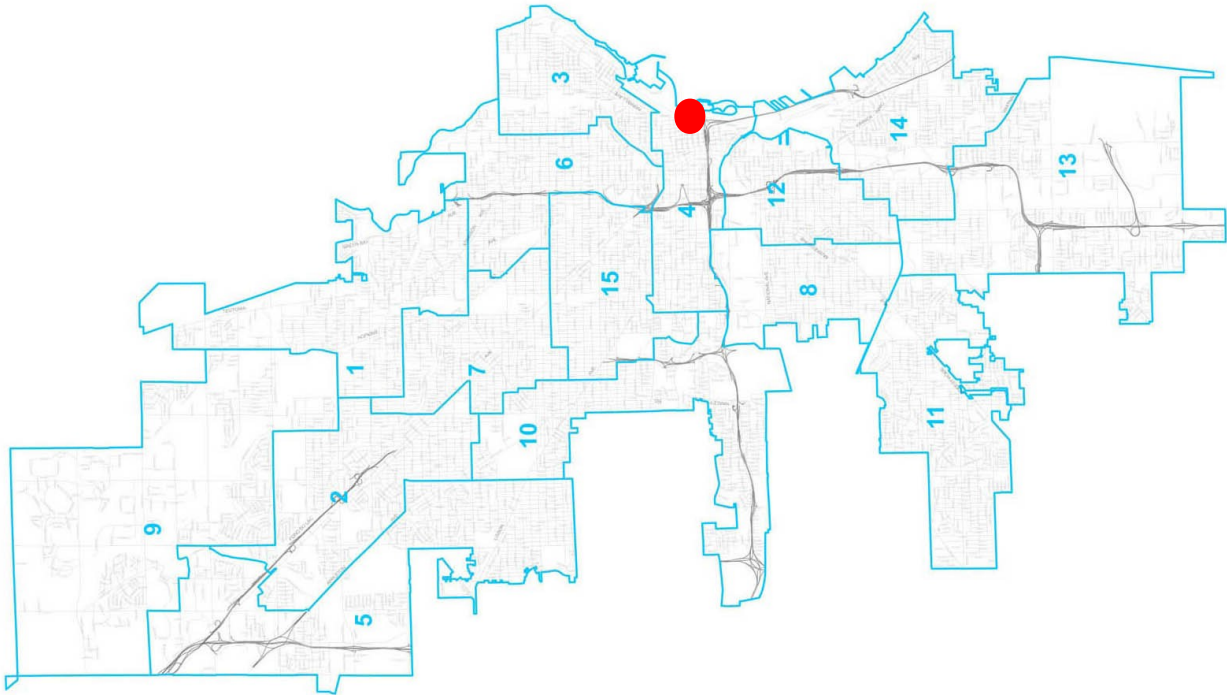


Illustration 1: The current location of the monument.

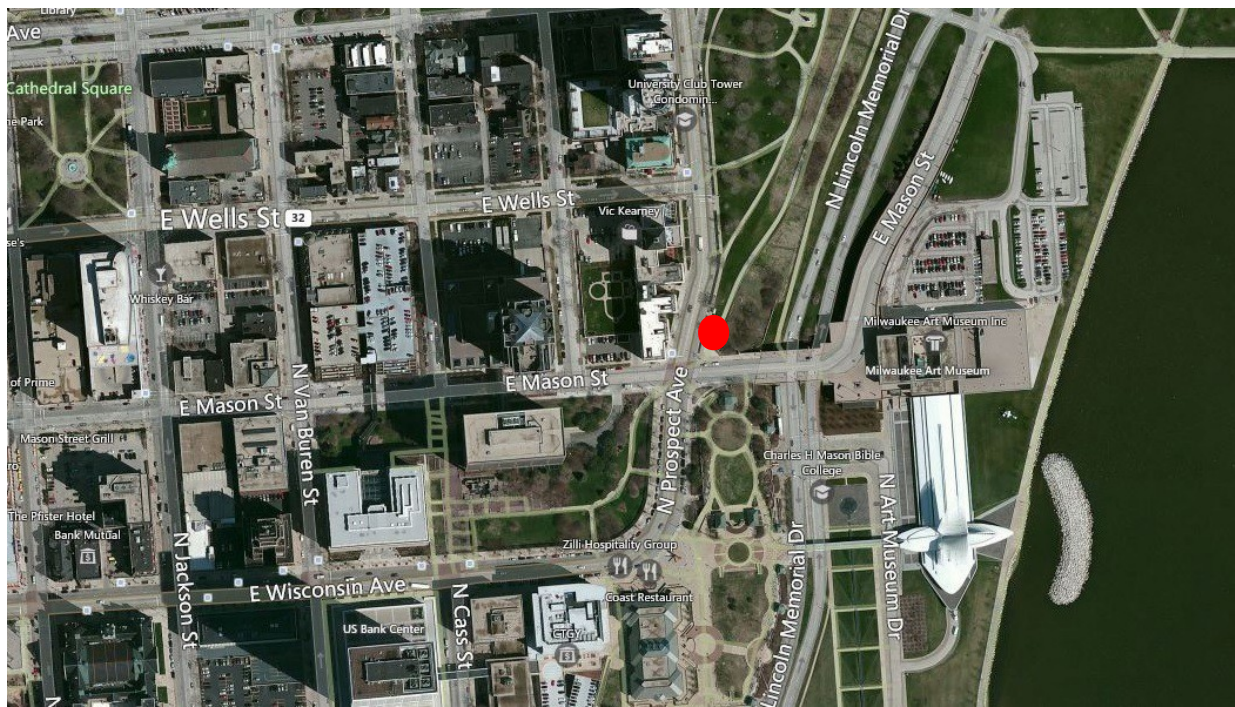


Illustration 2: The current location of the monument. (<http://www.bing.com/maps/>)



Illustration 4: The Doughboy statue model, the rejected proposal for the memorial (Milwaukee sentinel, July 12, 1930)



*Illustration 5: A replica of the Doughboy statue, today at Red Hook, Brooklyn, N.Y.
<http://ephemeralnewyork.wordpress.com/2008/11/12/the-doughboys-of-new-york-city/>*



Illustration 3: The winner model of the contest for the WWI memorial. "The model was so high that Alice Mueller had to climb on a chair to inspect it." (Milwaukee Journal, September 20, 1933)



Illustration 6: Breaking ground by Milwaukee Service Star Legion on the triangle at West Well and North 2nd streets for the WWI flagpole memorial. Mrs. E. T. Lubeck, president of Legion, turns the first spadeful of earth. (Chicago Daily ?, August 2, 1934)



Illustration 7: Grounding for the memorial flagpole. Left to right: Mrs. E. H. Warnke, color bearer; Mrs. Carl Wallber; the Rev. Gustave Stearns of the soldiers' home; Gill Stordock, state adjutant, American Legion; Mrs. E. T. Lubeck, president (with shovel), and Mrs. Helen Germershausen, Gold Star mother. (Milwaukee Journal, August 1, 1934)



Illustration 8: Dedication day (Milwaukee Sentinel, November 12, 1934)

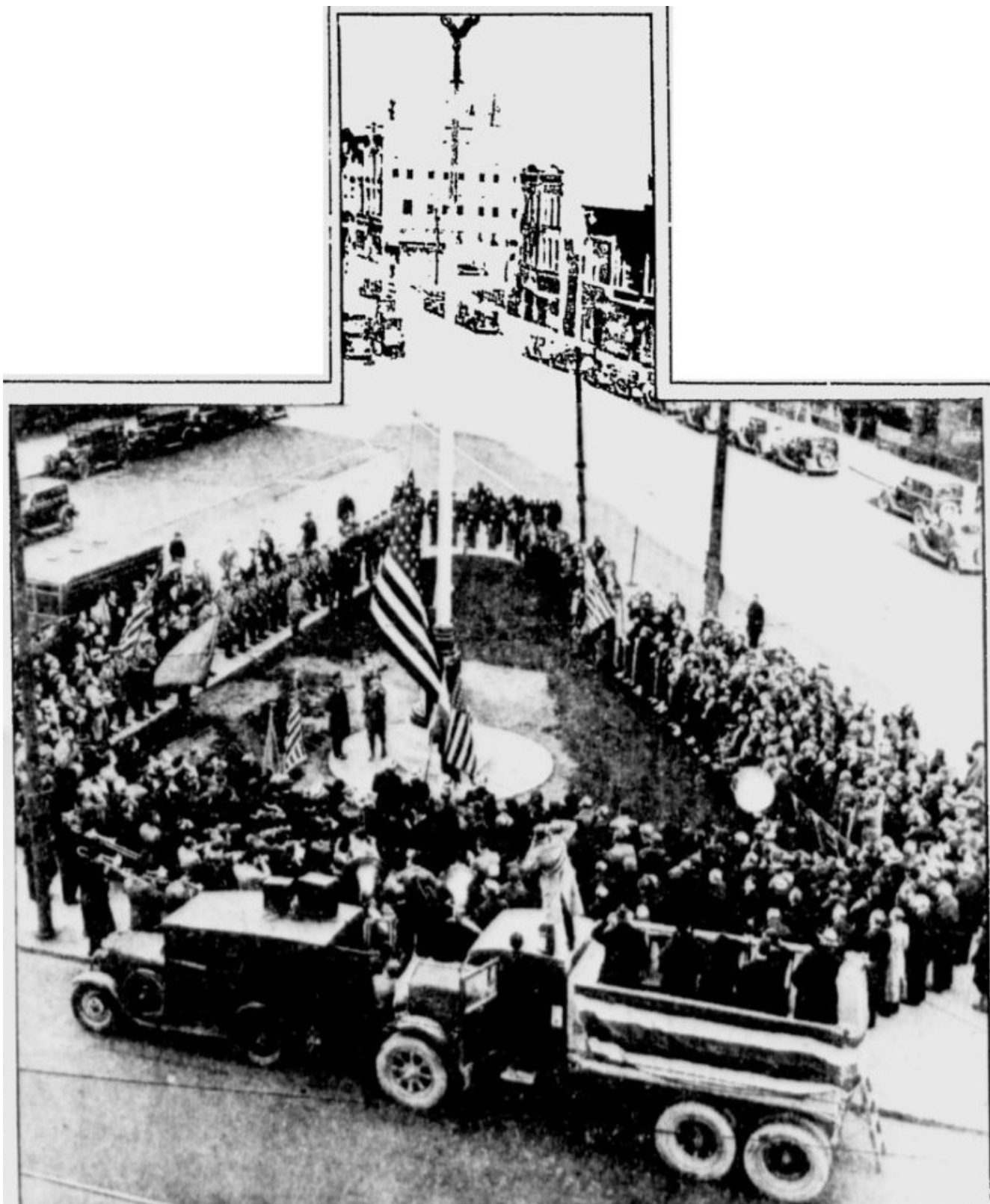


Illustration 9: Dedication day. "This was the scene as the flag was run up the pole." (Milwaukee Journal, Nov 12, 1934)



Illustration 10: The WWI memorial flagpole at Juneau park. Looking south. (Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)



Illustration 11: The WWI memorial flagpole at Juneau park. Looking north. (Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)



*Illustration 12: The base, northern side.
(Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)*



*Illustration 13: The base, western side.
(Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)*



*Illustration 14: The base, southern side.
(Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)*



*Illustration 15: The base, eastern side.
(Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)*



Illustration 16: Bronze relief detail on the base (Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)



Illustration 17: Bronze relief detail on the base (Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)



Illustration 19: Bronze eagle at the top of the flagpole (Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)



Illustration 18: The flagpole memorial (Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)



*Illustration 20: Close view of the bronze base: minor corrosion and contamination.
(Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)*

*Illustration 21: Close view of the bronze base: minor corrosion and contamination.
(Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)*



Illustration 22: The Letter Carrier's monument at the triangle on N. Second St., N. Plankinton Ave. and W. Wells St. (Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)



Illustration 23: The Letter Carrier's monument. (Nader Sayadi, July 28, 2014)